

Message Text

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ORIGIN OC-04

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY: OC/P:JWHANKS

7/13/73 21198

APPROVED BY: A/OC:WENAEHER

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R 131639Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

UNCLAS STATE 137433

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION STATE

INFO ADDIS ABABA, DAR ES SALAAM, JOHANNESBURG, LONDON, LOURENCO

MARQUES, LUSAKA, MBABANE, NAIROBI, PRETORIA FROM BLANTYRE

JULY 11, REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE

UNCLAS BLANTYRE 0985

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, PINT, MI

SUBJECT: MALAWI LAWS ON WOMENS DRESS AND MENS HAIR LENGTH

NAIROBI FOR REDSO/EA

1. SPECIAL SESSION OF MALAWI PARLIAMENT CONVENED JULY 10
AND BILLS INTRODUCED PRESCRIBING STANDARDS FOR WOMENS DRESS
AND MENS HAIR LENGTH.

2. WOMENS DRESS: "ANY FEMALE WHO, IN ANY PUBLIC PLACE IS
DRESSED IN ANY CLOTHING WHICH BY REASON OF ITS NATURE OR OF
THE MANNER IN WHICH IT IS WORN CAUSES, WHEN SHE IS STANDING
IN AN UPRIGHT POSITION WITH ARMS UNRAISED AND WITH HER FEET
NOT LESS THAN TWELVE INCHES APART, TO BE EXPOSED TO VIEW ANY
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PART OF HER BODY BETWEEN THE LOWER LEVEL OF HER KNEECAPS AND

HER WAIST OR ANY UNDER-GARMENT COVERING SUCH PART; OR WEARS ANY TROUSERS AS THE OUTERMOST GARMENT COVERING ANY PART OF HER BODY, SHALL COMMIT AN OFFENSE OF INDECENCY AND BE LIABLE TO A FINE OF TWO HUNDRED KWACHA AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR A TERM OF SIX MONTHS." CERTAIN EXEMPTIONS APPLY: TROUSERS CUSTOMARILY WORN AS PART OF NATIONAL DRESS; CLOTHING NORMALLY WORN WHILE ENGAGED IN THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE, SPORT, GAME OR PASTIME. BY ORDER MINISTER MAY EXEMPT AERODROMES, HOTELS AND OTHER PLACES FREQUENTED BY TOURISTS AND MAY PERMIT WEARING OF TROUSERS IN NATIONAL PARKS OR GAME RESERVES.

3. HAIR LENGTH: "EVERY MALE PERSON WHO WEARS THE HAIR OF HIS HEAD IN SUCH A FASHION AS, WHEN HE IS STANDING UPRIGHT, THE MAIN LINE OF THE BOTTOM OF THE MASS OF HAIR (OTHER THAN HAIR GROWING ON HIS FACE OR ON THE NAPE OF THE NECK) LIES BELOW AN IMAGINARY LINE DRAWN HORIZONTALLY AROUND HIS HEAD AT THE LEVEL OF THE MOUTH." PENALTY FOR FIRST OFFENSE IS FINE OF 20 KWACHA AND 3 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT AND FOR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE 50 KWACHA AND 6 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT.

4. WE EXPECT PROVISIONS TO BE RIGOROUSLY ENFORCED AND REQUEST AMERICANS COMING TO MALAWI BE FOREWARNED.
BURDETT

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